

Hoppe, Michael

From: gary.kassof@uscg.mil on behalf of Kassof, Gary CIV [gary.kassof@uscg.mil]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 12:32 PM
To: Vaughn, Stephanie; Basso, Ray; Hoppe, Michael; Stan Kaczmarek
Cc: Hick, Patricia; Flanagan, Sarah; Arca, Joe M CIV; Leoce, Donna D LCDR; Watson, Yosef D MST1
Subject: RE: BRIDGE STREET BRIDGE
Attachments: FW: Bridge St. Bridge repair status

All,

I'm assuming you are aware of the recent information we have received regarding coordination efforts between the bridge owner represented by Wally Wolfe and Stan Kaczmarek. See attached email.

The Coast Guard will continue to monitor the progress of the repair and "encourage" the bridge owner to complete repairs in the shortest time possible. However, it appears that given the schedule of openings proposed, the clean-up operations above the bridge can continue at a reasonable pace that will accommodate the EPA plan and schedule.

Your comments on this would be appreciated.

GARY KASSOF

Bridge Program Manager

First Coast Guard District

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-----Original Message-----

From: Vaughn.Stephannie@epa.gov [mailto:Vaughn.Stephannie@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2013 11:31 AM
To: Kassof, Gary CIV
Subject: RE: BRIDGE STREET BRIDGE

The people I have asked you to copy on these emails are as follows:

Ray Basso -- Director, Lower Passaic River Project. The project consists of several pieces which are managed by four different project managers. Ray coordinates the whole thing.

Me -- Project Manager, Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study of the 17-mile stretch of the Lower Passaic River Study Area, which extends from Newark Bay to Dundee Dam. The removal area adjacent to Lyndhurst was discovered during this investigation

Mike Hoppe -- EPA On-Scene Coordinator, helps with overseeing the removal action

Sarah Flanagan and Pat Hick -- EPA Office of Regional Counsel

Stan Kaczmarek -- he is the project manager on behalf of the Responsible Parties for this removal action.

Thanks,
Stephanie

-----Original Message-----

From: gary.kassof@uscg.mil [mailto:gary.kassof@uscg.mil]

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 3:43 PM

To: Vaughn, Stephanie

Cc: Stan Kaczmarek; Flanagan, Sarah; Hick, Patricia; Hoppe, Michael; Basso, Ray; Arca, Joe M CIV; Leoce, Donna D LCDR

Subject: RE: BRIDGE STREET BRIDGE

Stephanie,

Thanks. I appreciate that important distinction. The bridge owner's (Hudson-Essex County Bridge Commission, HECBC) engineering staff and engineering consultants provide them with technical data regarding structural and operational condition and safety of the bridge. The CG, nor EPA can substitute their technical expertise (which we do not have) and safety calculation for the HECBC). We can and do ask engineering and operational questions however, as we have done here.

The HECBC has established the commencement of the "30 day clock" on 9 September 2013. The bridge was first reported out of service on Saturday 8/31 and damage assessment and repair planning conducted during week of 2 September. They reported the repair contractor on the bridge on 9/9.

Will advise when I get more information

Gary Kassof
USCG-Bridges

-----Original Message-----

From: Vaughn.Stephannie@epa.gov [mailto:Vaughn.Stephannie@epa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 2:00 PM

To: Kassof, Gary CIV

Cc: Stan Kaczmarek; Flanagan, Sarah; Hick, Patricia; Hoppe, Michael; Basso, Ray

Subject: FW: BRIDGE STREET BRIDGE

At the risk of being annoying, one more point...

As we discussed yesterday, we recommend that an engineer/bridge specialist determine if it is indeed safe to open the bridge. My previous email was not meant to imply that the parties responsible for the EPA dredging work on the river are responsible for the opening/closing, nor that they are experts in the field of bridge operation.

Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: Vaughn, Stephanie

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 1:40 PM

To: 'gary.kassof@uscg.mil'

Cc: 'Stan Kaczmarek'; Hoppe, Michael; Flanagan, Sarah; Hick, Patricia; Basso, Ray

Subject: RE: BRIDGE STREET BRIDGE

Thank you for your follow up email. There are a couple more points I'd like to make.

1. The county asked our dredging contractor if tug boats could be used to move the bridge. The contractor stated that a downward pull while opening the bridge could further damage the structure, so tug boats should not be used. However, he advised that using tow trucks to open/close the bridge would not apply the same downward pull and, thus, use of this approach should not cause further damage. In fact, tow trucks were used to close the bridge when it initially got stuck in the open position on August 31st, and I am told the closure went smoothly.

2. Note that we have been checking the bridge on a regular basis and have not noticed that any repair work has started. Can you please confirm whether the estimated 30-day repair period has indeed started, and what the current schedule is?

I will be out of the office after 2:00 today and will not have access to email. You can call me at 212-637-3914 if you have any questions (I'll have my calls forwarded).

In addition, I have copied several people on this email who are involved with the project. Stan Kaczmarek represents the group of responsible parties conducting the work and the others work with me at EPA. If you could keep them in the loop, I would appreciate it.

Many thanks again,
Stephanie

-----Original Message-----

From: gary.kassof@uscg.mil [mailto:gary.kassof@uscg.mil]

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 1:16 PM

To: hdemellier@hcnj.us

Cc: Vaughn, Stephanie; lrodriguez@essexcountynj.org; Svargese@hcnj.us; Wally Wolfe; Arca, Joe M CIV; Watson, Yosef D MST1; Muilenburg, Wayne A CAPT

Subject: RE: BRIDGE STREET BRIDGE

Mr. Demellier,

Thank you for your quick reply and we will await your further response.

Information we have received from EPA is that in fact the clean-up operation on the Passaic River, upstream of the bridge is not a multi-year project. Rather it is a Time Critical Removal Action being conducted under an Administrative Order with specific time frames as part of the larger 17 mile multi-year project from Newark Bay to the Dundee Dam.

I do have a couple of questions:

a. How long will it take to remove the gear and bearing assemblies; how long will the bridge remain open and when will this occur.

b. After the gears and bearings are removed in the open position the bridge will be placed in the closed position. How will this be accomplished? And if it can be done without further damage at that point what would prevent the bridge from opening and closing twice a day afterward?

c. Generally, fabrication of parts can be a lengthy process with machine shops working normal 8 hour shifts. We would strongly recommend that double shifts be authorized to reduce the repair period.

d. While detours are not necessarily simple to establish there are 3 other vicinity bridges available: Clay Street, Jackson Street and Stickle Memorial (RT-280). What are the ADT volumes over each and their ability to handle the traffic detoured from Bridge Street.

e. The dredge contractor has equipment upstream of the bridge that they are anxious to remove. How can they be accommodated?

Ultimately the CG is looking for accommodation from all parties to the extent possible.

GARY KASSOF

Bridge Program Manager

First Coast Guard District

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-----Original Message-----

From: hdemellier@hcnj.us [mailto:hdemellier@hcnj.us]

Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 12:33 PM

To: Kassof, Gary CIV

Cc: vaughn.stephanie@epa.gov; Irodriguez@essexcountynj.org; Svargese@hcnj.us; Wally Wolfe; Arca, Joe M CIV; Watson, Yosef D MST1; Muilenburg, Wayne A CAPT
Subject: Re: BRIDGE STREET BRIDGE

This option was reviewed last week. Opening this bridge under torque conditions allows for the possibility of further damage. This was also stated, in front of other people, by the engineer for the dredging g contractor. Once the bridge is opened under these conditions, it will remain open. Please refer to original e-mail responses to Mr. Arca, USCG. I must admit that I am perplexed by the 30 day urgency concerning a multi year project. Having said that, I can look at the possibility of opening and closing the structure while the gear and bearing mechanisms are removed from the bridge.

On Sep 11, 2013, at 12:19 PM, "Kassof, Gary CIV" <gary.kassof@uscg.mil> wrote:

- > All,
- > I have reviewed the email traffic related to the emergency outage
- > at the Bridge Street Bridge and had several telcons with various
- > interests; marine, bridge owner, EPA. We understand the pressures on
- > all parties; however, a resolution in the near term may be possible.
- > In conversation with EPA, the clean-up coordinator and issuer of an
- > Administrative Order that requires clean-up of the environmental hot
- > spot in the Passaic River, a compromise was presented. The clean-up
- > operation can proceed and important environmental time schedule met if
- > the contractor has access upstream of the bridge in the overnight
- > period. This would require that the Bridge Street Bridge open at night
- > and remain in the open position (for navigation) until the morning
- > rush hour, at which time it would close and be available for vehicular
- > traffic all day until after the evening rush, at which time the cycle
- > would repeat.
- > It seems to the Coast Guard that minimizing the physical opening of
- > the swing span to only two operations a day could be an acceptable
- > scenario to protect the bridge from further damage while accommodating
- > an important environmental clean-up. The inability of the clean-up to
- > continue at this time may result in an undesirable environmental
- > condition with contaminated dredged spoil exposed to the environment
- > until removal and capping operations could continue in 2014.
- > We hope that the Hudson-Essex County Bridge Commission will
- > consider this compromise and accept this operational scenario until
- > the bridge is back in service. We are available to meet or set up a

> conference call among all parties to discuss further if necessary. Of
> course time is of the essence so a response within 24 hours would be
> appreciated.
> Thank you all.
>
> GARY KASSOF
> Bridge Program Manager
> First Coast Guard District
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